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For Immediate Release

Columbia Gas, Columbia Gulf tally greenhouse gas reductions

FAIRFAX, Va., April 13, 2000 – In their first report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Natural Gas Star program, Columbia Gas Transmission and Columbia Gulf Transmission, wholly owned subsidiaries of Columbia Energy Group, are showing that the private sector and the government working together can achieve environmental goals cost-effectively.

Columbia's natural gas transmission and storage companies are collaborating with EPA as part of a voluntary partnership between the agency and the oil and natural gas industry to reduce emissions of methane through the implementation of cost effective best management practices. Methane is one of the greenhouse gases believed to contribute to global warming.

Columbia's pipeline companies combined have reduced methane emissions released to the atmosphere by 9,715,648 Mcf since 1993. This is equivalent to the annual carbon dioxide uptake of 1,175,593 acres of trees or the equivalent of taking 864,695 cars off the road for one year.

"We're convinced that responsibility when it comes to the environment pays off," said Steve Wilner, Vice President, Environmental, Health and Safety. "Efforts to reduce our methane emissions often improve the operating efficiency of the pipelines, which can lead to improvement of the bottom line."

Natural Gas Star Program Manager Paul Gunning said, "The environmental leadership of companies like Columbia Energy Group and its natural gas transportation and storage affiliates helps demonstrate that voluntary, public/private partnerships are an effective way of meeting both economic and environmental goals. EPA commends Columbia's commitment to this partnership and is looking forward to a collaborative relationship."

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Among the most effective methods used by Columbia's transmission segment to create emission reductions were directed inspection and maintenance programs at sources which typically emit methane, use of portable compressors to degas pipelines before maintenance, replacing high bleed pneumatic devices and installing new compressor engines with dry seals.

Columbia Gas Transmission, with offices in Charleston, WV, and Fairfax, VA, moves 3 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to markets along a 12,550-mile pipeline network, which reaches across 10 Midwestern, Northeastern and mid-Atlantic states. The company operates one of the largest natural gas storage systems in the country with 239 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of working capacity.

Columbia Gulf Transmission, based in Houston, Texas, operates a 4,200-mile pipeline system, which interconnects with virtually every major producer in the Gulf of Mexico, and transports about 2.5 Bcf of natural gas per day. Together Columbia Gas and Columbia Gulf operate an expanding 16,750-mile pipeline system that connects premium U.S. production areas to premium U.S. markets.

Columbia Energy Group, based in Herndon, Va., is one of the nation's leading energy services companies, with assets of approximately \$7 billion. Its operating companies engage in virtually all phases of the natural gas business, including exploration and production, transmission, storage and distribution, as well as retail energy marketing, propane and petroleum product sales, and electric power generation. Information about Columbia Energy Group (NYSE:CG) is available on the Internet at www.ceg.com.

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